



**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE
13th July 2022**

Present:

Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Leas Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Miriam Murphy

Officials Present:

Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Mr. John Daly, Executive Engineer
Mr. Michael Nicholson, Director of Service, CCSD
Mr. Brendan Martin, Chief Librarian
Ms. Gillian Power, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing
Ms. Helena Fallon, Senior Engineer, Housing
Mr. Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer
Mr. Brian O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. Sorchá Walsh, Senior Planner
Mr. Lee Cullen, Technician
Ms. Catherine Murphy, Clerical Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Peir Leonard

Press: None

Public: None

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost loved ones; the members also asked that all are mindful of families with sick relatives and expressed concern for families of those killed in recent road traffic accidents. Votes of sympathy were expressed for the families of:

Dan Slattery, Margaret Byrne, Pat Kearon, Michael Allen, P.J Doyle, George Agar, Joe Singleton

A minute of silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Arklow dated 8th June

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Annual Meeting held on the 8th of June, 2022 were proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Annesley.

Item 3: Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Arklow dated 8th June

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 8th of June, 2022 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

Item 4: Matters Arising

No matters arising.

Item 5: To receive a presentation on the proposed new Aughrim library.

A presentation was shared by Michael Nicholson, DOS CCSD and Brendan Martin, Chief Librarian and a further supporting document was circulated that included the maps/drawings of the proposed library. From their presentation the council officials emphasized that the architect will use as much as he can from existing library and the materials will be sourced locally. Upon completion this will be a fabulous feature for the village. The Part 8 will be published in newspapers the following day. In the meantime, a temporary library will be located in the Pavilion.

The members acknowledged and praised everyone involved in the library service and expressed that the gift of a book is a gift of knowledge for children. Cllr Murphy put forward a request for accessibility and for maximum size of wheelchair friendly toilets.

This project is entirely funded by WCC as it costs less building it with our own funds than receiving grants.

Cllr Kennedy thanked M Nicholson and B Martin for the presentation.

Item 6: To receive a presentation on the proposed 2 No. Housing Units at Bardarrig Group Housing Scheme.

The housing report was circulated and presented by G Power, SEE and H Fallon, SE and they responded to the questions from the members. G Power stated that pre Part 8 will be finalised in the coming weeks. The scheme consists of two single storey, semi-detached, three bed units.

The Members welcomed the new scheme.

Currently the project is waiting on funding approval from the department, and will certainly be completed by next year.

Item 7: To receive an update on Vacant and Derelict Sites in Arklow MD.

Sorcha Walsh, Senior Planner and Lee Cullen, Technician shared a presentation and emphasized to the members the differences in definitions of the terms derelict and vacant sites. Derelict site – is just about the conditions.

There are currently no vacant sites in Arklow because of the lack of treatment plant facility. A site can be vacant, yet not dangerous.

Dangerous sites – There are no Dangerous Structures in Rathdrum recorded yet, but there’s one in the process of being registered under the Dangerous Sites legislation.

A discussion took place on various sites in the District.

Cllr Annesley questioned the health and safety of TidyTowns staff working on some sites in the town. He also added that it’s very hard for businesses in Arklow to operate with these buildings as they affect neighbouring businesses.

Cllr Miriam also expressed her concern that they are we are sitting as public representatives but yet have no say as most things seem to be blocked by various regulations and legislations. She affirmed that they would like to clean up the town, bring in development, enhance the town but the law is against us. She questioned how this law can be changed.

S Walsh concluded the session by advising the members to provide her a list of any sites they deem to be suitable for investigation.

Item 8: To discuss and consider the Speed Limit Review within Arklow Municipal District.

Michael Flynn, SE and Brian O’Sullivan, EE gave a presentation to the group to update the members on the speed limit review 2022 report.

A discussion took place on speed limits in particular areas of concern in the district.

M Flynn SE and Brian O’Sullivan EE responded to the various members questions.

Claire Lawless DA advised that she has received submissions from Cllr Leonard which have been sent on to the project team. Leonora Earls DM mentioned that reducing the speed limit could create a bigger problem and reminded the members to have regard for the guidelines.

To conclude the item, members were advised to compile a list of their suggestions and submit to the DE.

Item 9: To receive a report from Avril Hill, District Engineer.

District Engineer’s Report

Roads Programme

Regional Roads

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R-754-0	Redcross	Resurfacing & line marking	Provisionally scheduled for September after tourist season.
R-754	Redcross - Barndarrig	Surface Dressing	Contractor on behalf of Irish Water

Local Roads

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
L-2191-30	Ballyduff Road	Resurfacing & line marking	Commenced 06/07

L-6167-0	Oghill Upper	Resurfacing	Tendered
L-6203-33	Killaveny	Resurfacing	Overlay complete, to be surface dressed.
L-2140-0	Greenan Beg - Aughrim	Resurfacing	Tendered
L-5665, L-5165, L-5164	Ballykeane	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-5660	Bonagrew to Ballyvaltron	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-2128	Ballyboy- Aughavannagh	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-2137	Aughrim - Ballyteige	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-6174, L-6192	Crannagh to Ballymoyle	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-6168	Knockanode to Cronemore	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-6155	Tigroney	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-6192	Thomastown	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-6204	Killaveny	Surface Dressing	Scheduled

Length of surface dressing completed to date: 20.4km

Safety Improvements Works

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R 747	Woodenbridge and Aughrim	Safety Barrier	Complete
L 6126-0	Kirakee Village, Glenmalure	Safety Barrier	Complete
R 753	Ballinaclash and Rathdrum	Safety Barrier	Complete
R 754	Barndarrig	Replacement speed ramp	Scheduled

Former National Roads

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R772	Knockmore to Kish	Resurfacing & line marking	Tendered

Line Marking: AMD are working on a line marking tender for the entire district.

Miscellaneous Roads

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
L-2149-0	Avondale Road	Full road overlay and passing places, surface dressing	Complete

Footpaths

Road No.	Location	Proposed Works	Status
R747	Vale Road	Remove & replace extruded kerb and lay concrete path	Complete.
	Fernhill to Marian Villas	Footpath & lighting	Complete.
	Mountain Bay	Footpath replacement	Commenced. Work by MD staff

Application made to Sustainable Transport / Active Travel - Rural Specific Fund - 2022/2023 for footpath in Glenealy.

Community Monuments Funding

Arklow received funding for two projects in the 2022 Community Monuments Funding.

- Work is due to start on Arklow Castle on 18th July.
- **€7,072** for Abbey Lane (Research & Interpretation of Archaeology). Waiting on the archaeology report.

Other Projects

Planter with seating installed in St. Gabriel's cemetery – week ending 08/07.

Chess tables installed next to dementia gardens.

Co-ordinating with Environment section on columbarium wall for St. Gabriel's cemetery.

Comments

Cllr Fitzgerald commented on the fantastic work done in Ballyduff and said the people are appreciative of this.

Cllr Bourke expressed his disappointed that the project for the extension of footpaths from the Beech Road to Glenealy didn't qualify because of land take requirements. The District Engineer advised she will keep applying for funding and stated that the project at Glenealy was the only place that qualified for funding on this occasion.

Cllr Miriam queried the placement of chess tables in the dementia garden and said they are not suitable there.

Item 10: Notice of Motions –

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard. Received on (16/05/22)

“That Arklow Municipal District recognise the biodiversity, recreational & tourism value of our public parks throughout Arklow Municipal District and ring-fence a sufficient annual allowance to allow proper maintenance and enhancement of the parks for public use and that the Arklow Municipal District write to Wicklow Council to request that they acknowledge the counties need for a Parks Department in Wicklow County Council and commit to securing the necessary funding to implement this as soon as possible”.

Brought forward to the September meeting in Cllr. Leonard's absence.

(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard. Received on (16/05/22)

"That as part of the Arklow MD monthly report that a section be incorporated quarterly for the progression of biodiversity measures being actioned across the Arklow MD by the council and that a report of any urban habit removal being sanctioned by the MD be passed by the members prior to permission being granted".

Brought forward to the September meeting in Cllr. Leonard's absence.

Item 11: Correspondence

C Lawless DA read out correspondence received from Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney seeking financial support for their club.

L Earls DM advised that the discretionary funds should be used for the intended purpose only. There are various funding streams available that sports clubs can avail of. The club could apply for funding in the next call for applications.

Item 12: Any Other Business

The members wished the Wicklow Minor ladies team all the very best for next week's game against Ashbourne – 5 ladies from AGB are playing on the team. The members also wished the Arklow Baton Twirlers well in the 2022 Baton Twirling European Cup.

Meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 14th September 2022.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District